



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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15/72

March 31, 1997

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Tony Gallegos, Reclamation Engineer *ddg*

RE: Site Inspection, Western Clay Company, Hebe Gypsum Mine, M/015/072, Emery County, Utah

Date of Inspection: February 24, 1997

Time of Inspection: 1230 - 1430

Conditions: Partly cloudy, cold, windy

Participants: Neal Mortensen, Brad, Jeff, Western Clay Company; Tony Gallegos, Lynn Kunzler, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To examine areas of proposed mine expansion and visually evaluate areas which had soil parameters analyzed

We met Neal Mortensen, et. al., at the I-70 Fremont Junction turnoff and followed them out to the mine site. We had a brief discussion at the site regarding what we wanted to accomplish. Brad submitted a revised table of annual disturbed and reclaimed acreage in response to the Division's February 18, 1997 fax. The area which Western wishes to expand into first is labeled as Area E on the maps. An access road would need to be constructed to this area in order to mine it.

During this inspection, a dozer was removing shale overburden in Area B and a front end loader was segregating fractured gypsum ore for truck loading. Neal explained that they are currently mining in the lower bed of gypsum which is a lower grade of gypsum. Area E contains the upper gypsum bed which contains higher grade gypsum which is suitable for food grade use.

We proceeded to walk the undisturbed area adjacent to Area B to visually correlate vegetative cover with the soil sample areas. The vegetative cover data supplied by Western appeared to be high based on visual estimation by Division staff. We then walked through Area C-2 and took a soil sample in the same vicinity as shown on the soil sample map. A soil sample was also taken near the original sample site in Area D. A photograph was taken of the soil sampling location in Area D looking west.

In conclusion, the Division will wait for the results of the new soil analyses and continue to review the recent large mining operation submission submitted by Western.

jb

cc: Neil Simmons, Price BLM
M015072.ins

4/015/072

MAP FOR
2/24/97 INSPECTION

